THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) The Govt, of U.K. have been providing grant assistance to the coal sector for import of goods and services of UK origin since 1975. The latest grant is for an amount of £ 31 million. Necessary agreement between the Govt, of India and the Govt, of U.K., allocating the coal sector grant of £ 31 million was signed in March, 1987. The U.K. assistance *inter-alia* covers Mine Planning and Designing, Operational assistance to the coal companies through technical experts, and Training of Indian experts in UK and India on mine mechanisation. In addition, the assistance also covers Transfer of British technology for manufacture of mining equipment through Indian Public Sector Undertakings like MAMC and Jessop & Co. who have collaboration arrangements with British manufacturers.

(c) and (d) So far 12 Powered Support Longwall equipment sets have been introduced in the underground mines of CIL and SCCL with British assistance as under:

5 sets in Moonidih (Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.) one each at Seetalpur and Dhemomain (Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) one at Pathakhera (Western Coalfields Ltd); one at Churcha West (South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) one each at JK-5, GDK-7/9 and VK-7 (Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.). The rated capacity of all these 12 longwall sets is 16000 tonnes per day of coal production. During 1989-90 the overall performance of the 9 operating sets, excluding 3 sets under repair, maintenance and shifting, was about 60% of the rated capacity.

Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project

1313. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Kayam kulam Thermal Power Project, which has been included in the Indo-Soviet agreement for foreign aid, has been given green signal by the Environ ment Department and the Public Investment Board; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Development of Calicut and Cochin Airports

1314. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Calicut airport is being grossly underutilised and that Cochin airport is not being developed; and

(b) if so, what are the scheme contemplated for the development of these two airports ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Calicut airport is being used by Indian Airlines and Vayudoot. Indian Airlines are operating a daily Bombay-Calicut-Bombay flight. Vayudoot are operating thrice a weak service through Trivandrum-Madras and Bangalore. The number of flights can be increased provided aircraft capacity becomes available.

Various options, including extending the main runway and strengthening the same for airbus operations, realignment of the secondary runway presently used for naval operations; and construction of a

new airport at an alternative site have been examined. The option for the realignment of the secondary runway has been preferred. The project, however, involves participation of a number of Government agencies. It has not been possible to take up the project because of the paucity of resources with the agencies involved.

Ban on use of food colours

1315. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food colours in all foods and drinks lead to cancer; and

(b) whether Government propose to ban use of all food colours as was done in the case of Tomato Ketchup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Only those colours which are considered to be safe, are permitted to be used in specified food articles under the provisions of PFA Rules, 1955. This Ministry on the basis of advice of Experts has decided to ban three synthetic colours. There is no proposal to ban use of all food colour:..

Setting up of Central Directorate for Ayurveda

1316. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Central Directorate for Ayurveda in the Capital as reported in the Statesman of the 21st June, 1990, if so, what are the details of thereof indicating the functions of such a Directorate; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that! Government propose to start an All India Ayurveda University in Delhi and if so whether this has been decided in consultation with various States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Govt, is considering a proposal for setting up a Department/ Directorate of Indian Systems of Medi ine & Homoeopathy in the Ministry to strengthen the infrastructure of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy. Details are being worked out.

(b) A proposal to set up a Central University of Ayurveda & Unani Medicine is under consideration of Govt. A Committee was constituted in March, 1990 under the Chairmanship of Adviser (Health), Planning Commission to consider this. The Committee: is yet to submit its report.

High incidence of cancer

1317. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the high incidence of cancer of land and nick erpcially in the North Eastern are-as pointed out in a survey made by one Shri Suraj Verma of New Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times of 28th May, 1990; and

(b) whether Government will extend all help to the Cancer Detection Society of India which is under formation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANDFAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) Yes, Sir.